

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Appln. No. 09/784,112

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 11-17 are pending in the application. New Claims 18 and 19 have been added to more fully claim the invention and are fully supported in the original disclosure.

Claims 1-8 and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,224,036) ("Ito"). Applicant submits the following arguments to traverse the prior art rejections.

Claim 1 is patentable because Ito fails to disclose the image output means further outputs value(s) of one or more standard parameters concerning the suspected anomalous shadow together with the information including at least the information identifying the suspected anomalous shadow, in combination with other elements of the claim. In Ito:

The value of the characteristic value C_2 , which is obtained before the judgment is made and which represents the probability that the shadow is a shadow of a malignant tumor, may be displayed together with the visible X-ray image. *In this case, the judgment as to whether the tumor is benign or malignant is entrusted to an observer.*

Column 13, lines 16-22. Therefore, the reference discloses displaying the characteristic value C_2 , *along with* the visible X-ray image *without determining* whether a tumor is benign or malignant. To the contrary, claim 1 recites outputting one or more standard parameters with the information including at least the information identifying the suspected anomalous shadow:

wherein the image output means further outputs value(s) of one or more standard parameters concerning the suspected anomalous shadow *together* with the information including at least the information identifying the suspected anomalous shadow, . . . , and the anomalous shadow detecting means detects the suspected anomalous shadow by judging whether a probability that a shadow detected according to the prescribed detection process is a malignant tumor is high.

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In other words, the reference discloses displaying the undiagnosed "visible X-ray image" while claim 1 discloses outputting information identifying the suspected anomalous shadow which is detected by taking into consideration the malignancy of a shadow.

For reasons similar to those submitted for claim 1, claim 15 is patentable. Claims 2-8 and 11-14, which depend from claim 1, and claims 16 and 17, which depend from claim 15, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for their respective base claims.

The Examiner also states that for claims 3, 7 and 13, the image output means in claim 1 states "further outputs" and therefore, claims 3, 7 and 13 supposedly no more require a second parameter in the standard parameter of claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner is incorrect. For example, claim 7 recites that said one or more standard parameters include at least one calcification density, image density concentration of the suspected anomalous shadow, an output value of an iris filter, and malignancy/benignancy of the suspected anomalous shadow. The "further outputs" of claims 3, 7, and 13, however, relate to the certainty of detection of the suspected anomalous shadow which is recited separately from the one or more standard parameters.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



Susan Perig Pan
Registration No. 41,239

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
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